

## Message Text

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71

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 192034Z JAN 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2902  
INFO AMCONSUL CALI UNN  
AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 0570

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CU AO, CO  
SUBJ: DISCUSSIONS ON ANGOLAN SITUATION WITH COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS

REF: 75 BOGOTA 12309, 75 BOGOTA 10976

1. THE AMBASSADOR HAS DISCUSSED THE ANGOLAN SITUATION WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ (DEC 19) AND WITH FONMIN LIEVANO (DEC 18). BOTH CONVERSATIONS ARE SUMMARIZED IN BOGOTA 12309. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE ALSO RAISED THE ANGOLAN MATTER WITH UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS HERNANA TOBAR (BOGOTA 10976) AND OTHER FONOFF OFFICIALS.

2. BOTH LOPEZ AND LIEVANO PLACED MORE WEIGHT ON THE SOVIET ROLE THAN ON THAT OF CUBA, BELIEVING THE LATTER TO HAVE ACTED ON THE BIDDING AND ASSURANCES OF THE USSR. NEITHER THE PRESIDENT NOR THE FONMIN APPEARED RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA OF BRINGING CUBA'S ACTIVITIES BEFORE THE OAS, EVIDENTLY PREFERRING TO SEE THE BROADER QUESTIONS OF THE INTERVENTION EXAMINED IN THE UN FORUM. WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOC, AFTER HAVING PUSHED HARD ON THE CUBAN SANCTIONS QUESTION DURING THE PAST YEAR AND HAVING RENEWED RELATIONS WITH CUBAN TEN MONTHS AGO, WOULD FIND IT EMBARRASSING AT THIS TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN A HEMISPHERIC DISCUSSION OF A CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION.

3. ALTHOUGH GOC OFFICIALS HAVE NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING ON THE  
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ANGOLA ISSUE, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE CUBAN INTERVENTION,

BOTH AS A DEMONSTRATION OF MILITARY CAPACITY AND AS A REFLECTION OF CUBAN READINESS TO DO THE SOVIET UNION'S BIDDING,HAS ALTERED THE GOC PERCEPTION OF THE CASTRO REGIME. THE CHANGING IMAGE PROJECTED BY CUBA IS DISTURBING TO THE GOC AND WILL, WE BELIEVE, IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, CAUSE SOME RE-EXAMINATION OF THE COLOMBIAN POSITION ON CUBA.

4. THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO USE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ANGOLA SITREP SERIES IN FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOC OFFICIALS, AS APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS ARISE. THE LOCAL PRESS DOES NOT PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE ANGOLAN EVENTS. WE PLAN, ACCORDINGLY, TO BRING THE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THIS MATTER DIRECTLY TO GOC OFFICIALS.  
VAKY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERVENTION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BOGOTA00570  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760021-0569  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 76 BOGOTA 12309, 76 BOGOTA 10976  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DISCUSSIONS ON ANGOLAN SITUATION WITH COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CU, AO, CO, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006